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Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Illinois^{1/}

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During 1942, 1039 active sawmills in Illinois produced 100,269,000 board feet of lumber. In addition, some 283 idle sawmills brought the total number in the State to 1,322. Early in the year, mills were producing rapidly; but by midyear loss of labor to other industries and to the armed forces was telling and production lessened materially during the last six months.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on a complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a field canvass of delinquents and new mills by the Forest Service. The year 1942 is the first for which lumber production has been obtained in the entire State in this manner.

Practically the entire production of the State was hardwood (99.8 percent); but some 201,000 board feet of softwood was produced, consisting of bald cypress (native in swamps on the State's southern borders), northern white pine, mostly from planted groves, windbreaks and shelterbelts, and lesser amounts of native red cedar and other planted conifers or softwoods (table 1). For the State as a whole, oak led with 65.1 percent of the total, followed by cottonwood (8.0 percent), elm (6.9 percent), maple (4.5 percent), sycamore (3.9 percent), and other hardwoods. Small local farm mills and custom mills sawed 10.4 percent of the total, or some 10,399,000 board feet.

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce and the Statistics Division, War Production Board. In Illinois, the State Forester and the Extension Service and the Department of Forestry at the University of Illinois all gave active support and assistance to the work.

Table 1. -- Estimated lumber production in ILLINOIS, by kinds of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum by mills sawing:		Total	Proportion
	49 M & less per annum	50 M & over per annum		
	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>M feet b.m.</u>	<u>M ft.b.m.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Softwoods</u>				
Cedar	-	35	35	-
Cypress	25	35	60	0.1
Larch ^{1/}	-	10	10	-
Pine, white ^{2/}	16	47	63	0.1
Pine, yellow ^{3/}	8	15	23	-
Spruce ^{4/}	10	-	10	-
Total softwoods	59	142	201	0.2
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	91	951	1,042	1.0
Basswood	45	166	211	0.2
Beech	6	565	571	0.6
Birch	12	178	190	0.2
Cottonwood	534	7,464	7,998	8.0
Elm	941	5,967	6,908	6.9
Gum, red	128	2,069	2,197	2.2
Hickory	225	2,410	2,635	2.6
Maple	372	4,116	4,488	4.5
Oak	7,325	57,948	65,273	65.1
Sycamore	498	3,409	3,907	3.9
Tupelo - Black gum	22	2,245	2,267	2.3
Walnut	101	1,264	1,365	1.3
Yellow Poplar	13	374	387	0.4
<u>Other hardwoods</u>				
Black Cherry	-	4	4	-
Butternut	1	-	1	-
Hackberry	26	72	98	0.1
Honey locust	-	10	10	-
Pecan	-	500	500	0.5
Sassafras	-	1	1	-
Willow	-	15	15	-
Total hardwoods	10,340	89,728	100,068	99.8
Total all woods	10,399	89,870	100,269	100.0
Percent	10.4	89.6	100.0	-

- ^{1/} All planted; probably European larch.
^{2/} Almost all from old planted windbreaks and farmstead trees; very little native growth.
^{3/} Mostly from old planted windbreaks and farmstead trees; 15 M shipped in as logs from the South.
^{4/} Planted Norway Spruce; none native.

Compilation shows that the lumber industry reaches greatest importance in the southern half of the State, where counties show the largest totals of production. Several of the upper Mississippi River counties, and a few bordering the Illinois River likewise produced noteworthy amounts. By and large, the prairie counties show the lowest amounts of lumber and indeed three are not known to contain a single sawmill in them. Annual lumber production varied from 5,000 board feet per county to 4,490,000 board feet per county. In table 2, the production by counties or groups of counties, and by two mill classes provides detail on the producing localities and the amounts of lumber originating there.

Table 2. -- Estimated lumber production and number of sawmills by counties and by size classes of mill, in ILLINOIS, in 1942 ^{1/}

County or Counties	Production class						Active Mills	
	Idle		49M or less per Yr.		50M or more per Yr.		Total	Total
	mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	mills	Production	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Adams	6	14	238	7	1,245	27	1,483	21
Alexander	2	5	160	3	1,931	10	2,091	8
Bond	3	10	151	4	750	17	901	14
Brown	-	6	89	4	652	10	741	10
Bureau	4	6	38	5	683	15	721	11
Calhoun	4	6	105	7	3,276	17	3,381	13
Carroll & Whiteside	1	12	218	4	950	17	1,168	16
Cass & Menard	5	14	317	4	1,034	23	1,351	18
Champion	2	4	70	-	-	6	70	4
Christian	2	3	27	4	1,393	9	1,420	7
Clark	2	9	123	3	351	14	474	12
Clay	4	6	106	11	2,301	21	2,407	17
Clinton	5	12	211	10	2,243	27	2,454	22
Coles	3	3	27	5	394	11	421	8
Crawford	4	6	100	4	368	14	468	10
De Kalb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Du Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edgar	4	-	-	3	692	7	692	3
Edwards & Wabash	1	4	118	6	434	11	552	10
Effingham	3	23	328	11	4,162	37	4,490	34
Fayette	3	20	348	11	1,554	34	1,902	31
Franklin	6	5	74	6	953	17	1,027	11
Fulton	8	19	232	10	1,424	37	1,656	29
Gallatin & Saline	2	3	33	6	4,125	11	4,158	9
Greene	7	6	128	7	1,422	20	1,550	13
Hamilton	7	4	55	11	2,655	22	2,710	15
Hardin & Pope	5	4	84	8	1,090	17	1,174	12
Henry	3	4	56	3	323	10	379	7
Iroquois & Ford	-	3	62	-	-	3	62	3

Table 2 (continued)

County or Counties	Production class				Total:			
	Idle	49M or less per year	50M or more per year	Mills	Idle	49M or less per year	50M or more per year	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Jackson	8	19	255	9	1,789	36	2,044	28
Jasper	1	6	88	5	2,795	12	2,883	11
Jefferson	6	14	301	7	1,852	27	2,153	21
Jersey	4	7	78	6	670	17	748	13
Jo Daviess & Stephenson	1	16	162	3	986	20	1,148	19
Johnson	2	4	55	4	465	10	520	8
Kane, Cook, Kendall & McHenry	2	4	53	-	-	6	53	4
Kankakee	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Knox & Peoria	3	14	256	4	590	21	846	18
Lake	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Lawrence	4	4	121	6	1,842	14	1,963	10
Livingston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McDonough & Hancock	8	3	40	11	2,259	22	2,299	14
McLean & De Witt	5	7	151	5	376	17	527	12
Macon & Logan	2	5	110	3	703	10	813	8
Macoupin	10	20	327	11	2,469	41	2,796	31
Madison	8	23	414	5	1,131	36	1,545	28
Marion	3	15	192	5	1,590	23	1,782	20
Marshall	1	4	29	5	380	10	409	9
Mason & Schuyler	5	5	79	6	798	16	877	11
Massac	1	3	61	6	3,920	10	3,981	9
Mercer, Henderson & Stark	4	4	75	3	2,487	11	2,562	7
Monroe	6	14	179	11	2,067	31	2,246	25
Montgomery	4	12	197	7	933	23	1,130	19
Morgan	-	10	159	4	268	14	427	14
Moultrie & Cumberland	1	8	186	3	475	12	661	11
Ogle	1	8	101	-	-	9	101	8
Perry	13	19	232	8	2,222	40	2,454	27
Pike	2	12	315	7	802	21	1,117	19
Piatt	-	-	-	4	365	4	365	4
Pulaski	3	-	-	4	3,497	7	3,497	4
Putnam	3	4	65	-	-	7	65	4
Randolph	7	19	379	14	3,211	40	3,590	33
Richland	5	5	100	4	857	14	957	9

Table 2 (continued)

County or Counties	Production class						Active Mills		
	Idle	49M or less per year	50M or more per year	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	
	Mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	Mills	Production	Mills	
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	
Rock Island	2	4	74	3	644	9	718	7	
St. Clair	7	21	334	16	2,891	44	3,225	37	
Sangamon	5	5	80	3	311	13	391	8	
Scott	1	6	70	-	-	7	70	6	
Shelby	7	24	243	6	452	37	695	30	
Tazewell	10	6	34	10	1,292	26	1,326	16	
Union	1	9	202	7	1,345	17	1,547	16	
Vermilion & Douglas	4	4	41	3	353	11	394	7	
Warren	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Washington	9	31	600	4	399	44	999	35	
Wayne	-	6	141	5	1,083	11	1,224	11	
White	6	3	58	4	934	13	992	7	
Will Grundy, La Salle & Lee	3	3	15	5	1,022	11	1,037	8	
Williamson	1	4	95	3	405	8	500	7	
Winnebago & Boone	2	5	45	3	330	10	375	8	
Woodford	3	7	109	3	205	13	314	10	
Total	283	637	10,399	402	89,870	1,322	100,269	1,039	

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

Additional analysis of the production in mills sawing 50 M board feet or more per year showed that a little over half (51.7 percent) of the State's 1942 output originated in operations producing from 50 - 499 M board feet annually. Mills producing between a half and 1 million feet a year produced almost a fifth (19.1 percent) of the State's total, and furthermore, producers of 1 million to 5 million board feet (numbering only 13 in the State) produced about the same portion (18.8 percent) of the total (table 3). Small local farm mills and custom sawmills provided the remaining 10.4 percent.

Table 3. -- Number and estimated production of sawmills by production classes, in ILLINOIS, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills		Lumber Production	
	Number		M feet b.m.	Percent
1 - 49	637		10,399	10.4
50 - 499	361		51,815	51.7
500 - 999	28		19,208	19.1
1000 - 4999	13		18,847	18.8
Total	1,039		100,269	100.0

Stocks on hand were rather low. Producers of about 45 percent of the State total reported holding about 6.4 million board feet at the year's beginning and only 4.6 million board feet at the year's end. Stocks do not appear to have declined as much at mills sawing 50 - 499 M board feet annually as they did at the largest mills, where they declined by a third (table 4). The State's 1942 production appears to have moved rapidly into secondary manufacturers' hands, into use on the farm, or into other regular channels of concentration, resale and refabrication for war and other uses. The requirements of adjacent large urban areas and their wood-using industries also act as an important factor, in Illinois, in rapidly draining mill stocks away from the producing mills.

Table 4. -- Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks on January 1 and on December 31, 1942, and the amount of those stocks, by production classes, in ILLINOIS

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	Mills	Production	January 1	December 31
	Number	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	29 ^{1/}	541	78	53
50 - 499	88	17,372	1,801	1,726
500 - 999	18	13,051	1,242	583
1000 - 4999	9	14,147	3,313	2,242
Total	144	45,111	6,434	4,604

^{1/} Includes 3 idle mills reporting stocks.